

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A recombinant procollagen polypeptide chain comprising a natural collagen polypeptide chain, a C-terminal first propeptide, and a first non-natural site-specific proteolytic agent recognition site, wherein said first non-natural site-specific proteolytic agent recognition site is located between said collagen chain and said first propeptide, and further comprising an N-terminal second propeptide and a second non-natural site-specific proteolytic agent recognition site, wherein said second non-natural site-specific proteolytic agent recognition site is located between said collagen chain and said second propeptide, wherein the first or second propeptide is heterologous to the collagen chain.
2. (original) A recombinant procollagen chain according to claim 1, wherein said first non-natural site-specific proteolytic agent recognition site is a site-specific protease recognition site.
3. (original) A recombinant procollagen chain according to claim 1, wherein said first non-natural site-specific proteolytic agent recognition site comprises a peptide bond labile to chemical hydrolysis.
4. (currently amended) A recombinant procollagen chain according to claim 1, wherein said first propeptide is a C-terminal propeptide and second propeptides are heterologous to the collagen chain.
- 5-6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) A recombinant procollagen chain according to claim 61, wherein said first and said second non-natural site-specific proteolytic agent recognition sites are different.
8. (original) A recombinant procollagen chain according to claim 1, further comprising a non-natural amino acid sequence between said first site-specific proteolytic agent recognition site and said collagen chain.

9. (original) A recombinant procollagen chain according to claim 1, further comprising a non-natural amino acid sequence between said first site-specific proteolytic agent recognition site and said first propeptide.

10-17. (canceled)

18. (withdrawn- currently amended) A process for the production of a recombinant collagen polypeptide chain, said process comprising the steps of:

contacting a recombinant procollagen chain according to claim 1 with a first and second site-specific proteolytic agentss capable of selectively cleaving said recombinant procollagen chain at said first and second site-specific proteolytic agent recognition sites, respectively, under conditions wherein said first and second site-specific proteolytic agentss selectively cleaves said procollagen chain at said first and second site-specific proteolytic agent recognition sites, whereby a collagen chain is produced; and recovering said collagen chain.

19-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A recombinant procollagen chain according to claim 1, wherein the second propeptide is ubiquitin.

22. (new) A recombinant procollagen chain according to claim 1, wherein the first propeptide is complement C1q-C subunit C-terminus.

23. (new) A recombinant procollagen chain according to claim 1, wherein the second propeptide is ubiquitin, and the first propeptide is complement C1q-C subunit C-terminus.